

a substrate including at least two canals formed in a substrate surface and extending from an edge of the substrate;

centering pins positioned in the pin bores and the canals, the centering pins connecting the connector body to the substrate; and

an active optical component mounted on the substrate engaged in optical communication with at least some of the optical fibers.

17. (Original) The assembly according to claim 16, further comprising a cover positioned around the substrate.

#### REMARKS

The applicants have carefully reviewed the office action mailed on April 5, 2005.

In the office action, the Examiner objected to the drawings. In response, the applicants submit replacement drawing sheets hereto as Exhibit A for the Examiner's review. The replacement sheets are believed to be clear and to eliminate the deficiencies identified by the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 2, 6 – 7, 9, 12-13 and 16 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,767,141 to Dudek et al. (“Dudek”). The Examiner indicates that Dudek teaches all of the elements of the claims. The applicants have, without prejudice, amended independent claim 1 to incorporate limitations of claim 3 which has been indicated to distinguish the prior art of record. Accordingly, Dudek does not teach of suggest features of the claim as amended and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

With respect to independent claims 9 and 16 and claims depending therefrom, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner has not identified a disclosure of canals formed in a substrate surface. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are not anticipated and a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made with respect to them. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions about this Amendment and to facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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